

Washington, DC - Congressman Jeff Fortenberry' H.Res. 282, a House resolution recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, passed the U.S. House of Representatives today by a 418-1 vote. He released the following statement:

"I am pleased to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Force and hatred too often overcome understanding and reconciliation, muting the call of conscience to peace and concord. This treaty stands as an enduring reminder that no conflict can be pervasive enough, and no animosity strong enough to triumph over the will of men who turn to one another in a gesture of good will and humility to make a decision for peace.

"Because Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister of Israel and Anwar Sadat, the President of Egypt, chose peace on March 26, 1979, they opened channels of communication that endure to this day and continue to point toward hope in a war-weary region. Although we have seen layer upon layer of suffering and grievance in the Middle East, perhaps the Egypt-Israel peace treaty of 1979 is an example that can be replicated and modeled to set a new direction throughout the region. This treaty demonstrates that peace can only be found in treating others with dignity and respect and that the bond of our common humanity is always stronger than the hatred that may divide neighbor from neighbor."

Fortenberry is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East.

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